

# The Department of African and Black Diaspora Studies Course Descriptions WINTER 2022



## **ABD 202: Africa, 1750-1900**

**Online: Async**

**Instructor: Dr. Ogenga Otunnu**

**Crosslisted with HST 132.** This class will focus on continental Africa with particular emphasis on the Age of Conquest, the origins of Afro-European relations and the political, economic and military causes of the European partition and occupation of the continent.

## **ABD 206: Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Latin America: Peoples, Cultures, Ideas, and Movements**

**TuTh 11:20AM - 12:50PM (LPC)**

**Instructor: Dr. Julie Moody-Freeman**

**Crosslisted with LST 207.** This course examines historical and cultural constructions of blackness in Latin America and the Caribbean. This class will explore the way racial projects intersect with gender, sexuality, and class issues via case studies of diverse communities and countries in the region through both historical and contemporary perspectives. Students will learn how racial identities are constructed and interpreted in the Americas and the ways these identities have shaped Latin American and Caribbean cultures, politics, and societies. The course will situate race and blackness amongst social, cultural, economic and political transformations in the region and the comparative dimensions of these processes in order to illustrate the diversity and complexity of the region's development.

**Only 6 courses to minor in ABD!  
Only 13 courses to major!**

## **ABD 208: African America: Peoples, Cultures, Ideas and Movements**

**TuTh 1PM - 2:30PM (LPC)**

**Instructor: TBA**

This interdisciplinary course is intended to acquaint the student with a range of texts that illustrate some of the major themes in African American studies while emphasizing the development of students' critical reading, writing, and analytical skills. The course will act as an introduction to African American historical, literary, political, and cultural study. It is not meant to be the final word, but rather is meant to introduce students to some of the complexities, debates, and questions that have shaped the study and development of African American Studies. Writers to be studied include W.E.B. Du Bois, Booker T. Washington, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Angela Davis, Audre Lorde, among others.

## **ABD 218: African American Politics**

**MoWe 1PM - 2:30PM (LPC)**

**Instructor: Darryl Powell-Young**

**Crosslisted with PSC 218.** This course will provide an overview of African-Americans in the American political system. This includes blacks' political behavior and socialization, as well as their role in American political institutions, parties, interest groups and coalitions. We will also consider the impact of African-Americans' political interests on the formation of laws and public policies, particularly the current dynamics of race, mass incarceration, and the prison system.

A key goal of this course is to demonstrate that despite blacks' universal pursuit of the goals of freedom and equality, they have not always agreed on how to achieve those goals. Consequently, while blacks have many common concerns and issues, black political interests are not monolithic. This course will explore the complications involved in determining the political interests of African-Americans.

**di'as'po'ra [dī-as-per-uh]:** referring to a group that has been dispersed outside of its traditional homeland, especially involuntarily.

## **ABD 244: African Diaspora Women Writers**

**MoWe 11:20AM - 12:50PM (LPC)**

**Instructor: Dr. Rita Mookerjee**

**Crosslisted with INT 388, ENG 268, and WGS 290.** This course reflects the contributions of contemporary women writers living and writing from the African diaspora. Though a mix of literary theory, fiction, and poetry, we will dismantle misconceptions and stereotypes while inspecting shared themes and textual properties from these authors. Citizenship, colonialism, tokenism, fetishization, and hybridity are key topics that we will study in the context of our readings. Through historical analyses, literary scholarship, and considerations of feminist theory, we will disrupt white narratives of feminism to arrive at complex ideas of intersectionality, feminism, and representation. Authors studied will include Audre Lorde, Jamaica Kincaid, Edwidge Danticat, Ijeoma Oluo, among others.

**Founded in 2003, African and Black Diaspora Studies is committed to a rigorous, interdisciplinary and socially-conscious approach to the study of the ideas, peoples, and cultures of African descent around the world.**

## **ABD 246: Principles of African Art**

**Online: Async**

**Instructor: Dr. Jody Berman**

**Crosslisted with HAA 101 and ART 246.** This course serves as an introduction to the study of African art. Coverage of the artistic traditions of Africa will not be exhaustive. Africa is an enormous continent with an extraordinary diversity of cultures. It is impossible to represent the entire continent in one quarter. The course is based around a series of important concepts for the study of African art. The course will explore each of these concepts through a variety of artistic traditions from the continent. In this manner, students will gain basic theoretical tools which will enable them to work with art from across Africa. The study of African art will also serve as an introduction to the basic concepts of the field of art history more generally, albeit from the Africanist perspective. As such, there is no need to have taken prior art history or African studies courses. This course assumes no prior encounter with either.

## **ABD 252: Post-Colonial African Art**

**TuTh 4:20PM - 5:50PM (LPC)**

**Instructor: Dr. Mark DeLancey**

**Crosslisted with HAA 203.** This course is a survey of contemporary African art and architecture, defined as extending from approximately 1960 until the present. 1960 is the year in which seventeen African countries gained their independence, a process that began in 1957 with Ghana becoming the first African country to do so.

The course will alternate between considering the art of countries which have gained prominence in the field and examining particular concepts which are of great importance across the continent. The material is arranged largely in a geographical manner: North Africa and the western Sahara, West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, and finally southern Africa. Readings are selected to present major themes explored in relation to each class's particular country or subject matter. In general, students will gain an understanding of the relationships between contemporary art, history, and culture in Africa and in relation to the global art world.

## **ABD 257: African American History 1800-1900**

**Online: Hybrid**

**Thursday 11:20AM - 12:50PM**

**Instructor: Dr. Authens Oppong Wadie**

**Crosslisted with HST 247.** The African experience in America beginning in the colonial era and lasting through the present day. This course will focus on a portion of that history—that spanning the 19th century. The course is organized thematically, with an emphasis on topics such as resistance, the construction of race, slavery and the law, gender and slavery, the nature of antebellum free black life, abolition, the Civil War, Reconstruction.

## **ABD 290: Catholicism in Africa**

**Online: Async**

**Instructor: Dr. Stan Chu Ilo**

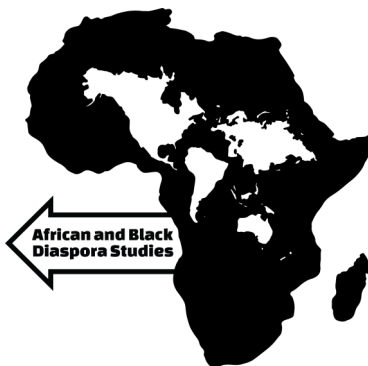
**Crosslisted with CTH 276.** This course will study African Catholicism as a socio-cultural and religious movement. It will locate African Catholicism in three main streams: 1. As a religious heritage which goes back to the first century, reaching its climax in the conquest of Alexandria and the entrenchment of the Roman Empire in Africa. 2. As a cross-cultural and socio-political movement which has affected and changed Africa through the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, Colonialism, Western Missionary activities in Africa, Western education and the integration of Africa into global Christianity and World Catholicism; 3. As a unique African Christian religious movement with its own identity, mission, and character which is now redefining the future of Catholicism as the center of gravity of World Christianity shifts Southward in the twilight of a post-Western Christianity and post-Christian Western cultures and civilizations.

## **ABD 380: Topics in African American Studies - Politics and Social Justice**

**Online: Sync**

**Instructor: Dr. Christina Rivers**

**Crosslisted with PSC 393.** This course will cover the broad concept of social justice in the U.S. We will interrogate the meaning of that concept through the lenses of various public policies: housing, voting and representation, employment, health care, and the criminal legal system. We will examine the political origins and



development of such policies. Finally, we will consider how such policies have intersected with each other in ways that have both promoted and impeded a just society. An overarching question of the course is "what must be done" to promote justice through public policies. **Department permission required.**

## **ABD 386: Black Women's Experiences**

**Thursday 6PM - 9:15PM**

**(LPC)**

**Instructor: Dr. Anne Mitchell**

**Crosslisted with WGS 386.** We will explore varying topics from black girl magic to black women's pain and trauma. To do this work, we will critically examine representations of blackness in popular culture, social media, literature and fine art. We will address the difference and similarities between black women's lives throughout the diaspora, by exploring both the Global North and South.

This class will think through black women's and girls' experiences within reproductive justice movements, queer communities, and beauty culture. We will question how black women and femmes survive in cultures that seek to erase them, exploit their labor and silence their voices. We will contrast how black women are seen and understood by the larger culture, to how black women define themselves. Despite the malignment of Black women they continue to enunciate complex life experiences, fight oppression, and maintain communities.

## **ABD 391: Senior Capstone**

**MW 1:00PM - 2:30PM (LPC)**

**Instructor: Dr. Lori Pierce**

This seminar engages students in a synthesis of what they have learned throughout coursework. The capstone course will involve reading, writing discussion, as well as the preparation by students of a substantive piece of work (e.g., a senior thesis, a research paper, or a creative work.) **Open to senior ABD majors/minors only.**

**Questions?**  
Email [abd@depaul.edu](mailto:abd@depaul.edu)